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FACT SHEET

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Improving Trial Court Facilities: Fresno B. F. Sisk Courthouse

The renovation of the B. F. Sisk courthouse received initial funding in fiscal year 2006–2007. This project is one of the highest-priority capital-outlay projects for the judicial branch.

Location:	1130 O Street in downtown Fresno
Purpose:	Provide the Superior Court of Fresno County with appropriate and accessible court space for complex civil and family law and related support spaces for the public and court staff
Capacity:	Will house 15 courtrooms (with capacity for up to 16 courtrooms) in approximately 192,000 square feet
Project cost:	\$70.9 million for all project costs, \$58 million for construction
Funded by:	Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002, which established a revenue source of court user fees for judicial branch courthouse projects
Architect:	SmithGroup of San Francisco, with Allen Lew & William Patnaude Architects of Fresno
Construction:	Turner Construction Company
Project timeline:	Construction began July 2008 and was completed on budget and on schedule in September 2010. The building will open for public court business on November 22, 2010
History:	Originally constructed in 1967 as a federal building and courthouse, the building was vacated by the federal government after the Robert E. Coyle United States Courthouse was completed in the last decade. The five-story building formerly housed 8 federal courtrooms, chambers, and federal justice agencies. The building keeps its former name to honor the visionary public service of Bernice Frederic Sisk (December 14, 1910–October 25, 1995), member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 12th Congressional District, 1955–1963.

The Need

The Superior Court of California, County of Fresno has multiple facilities serving the downtown area. These facilities poorly serve the growing needs of the superior court, and the lack of consolidated facilities exacerbates the operational challenges of the court.

The superior court's civil and family law divisions, with 15 judicial officers and 178 staff, will move into the B. F. Sisk Courthouse when the court takes occupancy in November 2010. The court will also be able to terminate the lease for the Family Law Facilitator & Spanish Speaking Self-Help Center when these functions are consolidated with other family court support functions moving from the existing Fresno County Courthouse into the Sisk building.

Local Government Collaboration

Through the actions of the 108th Congress, the federal government conveyed title to the B. F. Sisk Federal Courthouse to the State for use by the superior court with the stipulation that the building be used for the administration of justice. The County of Fresno conveyed the property to the State of California for \$1 in September 2007.

More Information

Project Web Page:

www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_fresno_sisk.htm

For further information, please contact Teresa Ruano, Office of Communications, 415-865-7447 or teresa.ruano@jud.ca.gov.